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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik.

ACTIVITY OF THE USSR MEDICAL INDUSTRY IN 1950

The Collegium of the Ministry of Public Health USSR has considered the report of Glavmedprom (Main Administration of Medical Industry) on the results of the work of enterprises of the medical industry in 1950 and also the tasks set for 1951. During 1950 the medical industry has achieved a certain measure of success. The production plan was fulfilled 104%. The 1949 production of medicinals, instruments, and equipment was exceeded by 53%. The production of analgin, pyramidon, santonin, glucose in ampules, and a number of other preparations was doubled, and that of penicillin was increased 17-fold. Labor productivity increased by 37%, and the prime cost of production dropped by 25.8%.

Much has been accomplished in the way of installing highly productive equipment at plants. During the year more than 3,800 machine tools, process equipment units, electric motors, and automatic controllers have been installed and introduced into operation. Great technical improvements have been effected. As a result, as far as equipment is concerned, the capacity of the plants was increased considerably. The production of 134 new medical products and preparations was introduced, including that of streptomycin, synthomycin, p-aminosalicylic acid, proserine [prostigmine], furamon, acetylcholine, carbocholine [carbamylcholine], and lydol [ethyl ester of 1-methyl-4-phenyl-isonipecotic acid].

On noting these achievements, the collegium at the same time pointed out that essential drawbacks existed in the work of plants, specialized branch administrations, and Glavmedprom. Many plants which exceed the assignments in certain types of production do not complete the program along the whole line of products. Thus, the plan with regard to 275 products, including noursulfazole /sulfathiazole?, calcium chloride, gastroscopes, scissors, and syringes, has not been fulfilled. Bad organization and the practice of last-minute speed-up have taken deep roots at some plants. The program for the first months of 1951 is also being undermined. This refers particularly to the Moscow Medical /instrument? Sets Plant (director, Gurkov), the Kiev Medical Apparatus Plant (director, Cherednik), and the Baku Chemico-Pharmaceutical Plant (director, Aliyev). The chiefs of enterprises do not carry on everywhere a persistent fight for the introduction of advanced methods and for the technical reequipment of plants.

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Several female Stakhanovite operators of the "Akrikhin" Plant have achieved remarkable results in the organization of work. The experience acquired in the course of their activity was studied extensively by fellow workers. It is the explicit duty of chiefs of enterprises to organize dissemination of advanced experience. However, at some plants the chief engineers have delegated this duty to norm setters. In the administration dealing with the production of medical instruments and equipment itself, no attention is being paid to technical information and dissemination of advanced experience.

Many plants of the medical industry have not fulfilled the assignments as regards the prime cost of production. Somewhere the fight for economy of metals and crude materials is not effective enough. The greatest losses from rejects occur at enterprises of the glassware and medical instruments industry (Gor'kiy Plant imeni V. I. Lenin, "Industriya" Plant, and others).

The collegium entrusted Denisov, Fedchenko, Zaytsev, and Grishakov, chiefs of specialized branches, with the duty of eliminating the faults which have been noted and of insuring the smooth operation of plants in such a manner that the plan is fulfilled for the whole list of products. It is proposed to develop and introduce into practice the most effective labor methods, to utilize technological achievements, to mechanize operations which require much labor, and to inculcate on a more extensive scale workshop and brigade economic accounting. The supplying and equipment of laboratories and tool shops will be improved.

Glavsnab (Main Administration of Supply) has been advised to control more closely the unloading of raw material at plants, so as to insure the execution of deliveries which were not carried out in January and February.

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